

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

12 March 2021

Dear staff and students

DUT COVID-19 UPDATE

Over a year ago, when South Africa recorded its first case of COVID-19, DUT instituted guidelines and protocols to ensure the safety of students and staff. These guidelines remain in place, and are outlined in this statement. Please familiarise yourself with these guidelines, as well as with DUT's COVID-19 protocol. They are both aimed at minimising the risk to yourself, your family, your friends and colleagues. Let's all take action now to stop the spread of this disease and help make COVID-19 history.

Here are the latest COVID-19 statistics for DUT:

Total number of people infected:	243
Total number of staff (positive):	129
Total number of students (positive):	114
Total number of recoveries:	231 (111 students and 120 staff)
Total number of deaths:	10 (3 students and 7 staff)
Total number of active cases:	3
Number of new infections:	0 (this week)
Number of new infections (staff):	0 (this week)
Number of new infections (students):	0 (this week)
Location of new infections: (DBN)	0
Location of new infections: (PMB)	0
Has contact tracing commenced:	Yes
Has physical disinfection commenced:	Yes

We wish our students and staff a safe return to good health.

Your health is in your hands

All students are encouraged to watch the following video from Higher Health. It addresses important issues about your health and wellness, and covers matters such as relationships, mental health, gender-based violence, mental

well-being, COVID-19 and more. You can access the video via the following links: <http://higherhealth.ac.za/programmes/peer-to-peer-education/> or <https://youtu.be/6j79l6F3F2w>

DUT's daily COVID-19 protocol: What to do when you come to campus

Firstly, please be aware that only those students and staff members who have been invited to come onto campus, and who have a valid entry permit, will be granted access to campus.

1. Before coming to campus:

Complete the HealthCheck COVID-19 screening form every day before leaving your place of residence. This form is to check for symptoms of COVID-19, and helping to prevent the disease from spreading. It is important to be completely honest in your responses to the questions before attempting to gain access to campus.

You can access the HealthCheck form in three ways:

- Dial HealthCheck on *134*832*2# This is a free call. Or
- Go to: <https://healthcheck.higherhealth.ac.za> Or
- Add 0600 110 000 / <https://wa.me/27600110000?text=hi> to your WhatsApp to contacts.
- If you get an **orange light** or a **red light**, please do not proceed to campus. Instead, please call the COVID-19 Hotline on 031 373 3760 or 031 373 2223 or email covid-enquiries@dut.ac.za for advice on what to do. Please also keep your Head of Department, lecturer or Residence Advisor informed.
- If you get a **green light** on HealthCheck, wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water, and put on a mask covering your nose, mouth and chin. You may now safely proceed to campus.

2. When you reach the entrance to campus, please:

- Allow the Security Officer to take your temperature. A higher than usual body temperature can be an indicator of fever. Fever can be a symptom of COVID-19.
- Show your student card, your entry permit, and your HealthCheck result to the Security Officer.
- Sanitise your hands at the entrance.

- At all times, please remain at least 1.5 metres away from other people to minimise transmission of COVID-19. This is one of the most effective measures you can take to prevent becoming infected or infecting others. Remember, anyone can have COVID-19, and some people don't get symptoms.
- Please avoid shaking hands, fist bumps, hugging, kissing or any close contact with others. Avoiding close contact like this can radically reduce transmission of COVID-19.
- DUT has a #NoMaskNoEntry policy: No entry will be granted to anyone not wearing a mask covering nose, mouth and chin.

DUT'S mandatory COVID-19 guidelines and precautions

By taking the following precautions, you could save lives: your own life and the lives of others. These precautions are compulsory at DUT:

Please do the following:

- Keep your distance – remain a minimum of 1.5 metres away from any other person at all times on campus and in public.
- Wear a mask – wear a mask that covers your nose, mouth and chin at all times on campus and in public.
- Clean your hands – sanitise your hands on entering campus, and continue to clean your hands regularly throughout the day. Don't touch your face with unwashed hands.
- Sanitise/clean -- clean/sanitise frequently-touched surfaces.

Please avoid:

- Avoid spaces that are closed, crowded or involve close contact.
- Avoid crowded and poorly-ventilated spaces where people spend long periods of time close together. This includes restaurants, places of worship, choir practices and other crowded situations. The virus spreads easily in these environments, so taking precautions is essential.

Failure by a student or staff member on DUT premises to:

- Wear a mask covering both nose and mouth;
- Maintain a distance of 1.5 metres between themselves and any other individual; or
- Sanitise their hands at entrances to campuses and venues

may result in disciplinary and/or criminal action, which could result in a fine, suspension, expulsion and/or a criminal record.

How to get help if you have COVID-19 symptoms or test positive for COVID-19

- If you suspect you may be positive for COVID-19, or if you develop symptoms, please contact the DUT Clinics for assessment as you may need to leave campus immediately. The Clinics can be contacted on 031 373 2223 (Durban), 033 845 8913 / 845 8966 (Indumiso) or 033 845 8811 / 845 8812 (Riverside).
- If you live in residence, please inform your Residence Advisor immediately. They will advise you accordingly.
- Please also immediately inform your Head of Department or Lecturer.
- If you develop severe symptoms such as difficulty breathing, shortness of breath or high fever, call the DUT Clinics as above during office hours, or call 0600 123 456 (via WhatsApp); or the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) Hotline on 0800 029 999; or telephone the COVID-19 National Call Centre on 012 337 1997 for assistance.
- If you get tested, please send your COVID-19 test results to your Head of Department or lecturer for forwarding to the COVID-19 hotline on covid-enquiries@dut.ac.za

How to find mental health care support:

Many people are finding the COVID-19 pandemic overwhelmingly stressful. If you feel you need support, speaking to a professional psychologist can assist you to manage anxiety, depression, social or study problems, GBV and many other situations you might be finding difficult. These services are strictly confidential.

Speak to a DUT Psychologist

Students can make a booking for online counselling by emailing Counsbookingdbn@dut.ac.za. Otherwise, please call 031 373 2266 in Durban or 033 845 8900 / 845 8828 in the Midlands during office hours.

Staff may contact the Employee Wellness Programme for counselling and support by emailing ewp@dut.ac.za, or call 031 373 2025 / 373 2873 during office hours.

Online resources

Visit

https://www.dut.ac.za/support_services/student_services_and_development/student_counselling_and_health/ for more information on Student Counselling and Health.

Tollfree, 24-hour mental health support

Or, for 24-hour, tollfree mental health assistance, call the Higher Health national hotline on 0800 36 36 36 or SMS 43336.

How to find information and advice on COVID-19:

- Visit the DUT COVID-19 webpage at <https://www.dut.ac.za/coronavirus/> for further information.
- For enquiries and advice on COVID-19, please email covid-enquiries@dut.ac.za or telephone the DUT COVID-19 Task Team's hotline during office hours on 031 373 3760 / 373 2223.
- After hours, staff and students may contact 0600 123 456 (via WhatsApp); or the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) Hotline on 0800 029 999; or telephone the COVID-19 National Call Centre on 012 337 1997.
- For information about the COVID-19 vaccines, useful toolkits can be found at <https://sacoronavirus.co.za/tag/vaccine-toolkits/> and information on the various different vaccines can be found at <https://sacoronavirus.co.za/2021/01/27/overview-of-the-vaccines.slideshow/>

Please note: everyone needs a permit to enter campus

Please note that only those staff and students with valid permits will be allowed to enter DUT. Permits are issued by Heads of Department. Every time you access campus, please show your permit to the Security Officer, along with your staff/student card and your HealthCheck result. Please also sanitise your hands and note that there is a #NoMaskNoEntry policy for all DUT campuses and residences.

Request to students

Students are kindly requested to leave campus when finished with assessments, exams, library work, etc. This is to prevent crowding, socialising and, consequently, the spread of COVID-19. Let us all play our part in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Thank you to all those students who applied to conduct screening at the DUT entrances. All posts have now been filled.

Sincerely

DUT COVID-19 Response Task Team



DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
INYUVESI YASETHEKWINI YEZOBUCHWEPHESHE